whereby a set of characteristic values [may be] <u>is</u> defined for respective transmission line segments, having an optimized performance in view of the at least one algorithm.

- 8. (Amended) The model according to claim 1, wherein the respective characteristic values are [substantially] non-incrementally distributed across a range.
- 9. (Amended) The model according to claim 1, wherein the respective characteristic values are [substantially] non-monotonically distributed across a range.
- 17. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein a variation in respective segment characteristics is distributed [substantially] non-incrementally.
- 18. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein a variation in respective segment characteristics is distributed [substantially] non-monotonically.
- 25. (Amended) The system according to claim 22, wherein the segmented transmission line comprises an air-spaced coaxial transmission line adapted for transmitting an RF signal, the characteristic value being a length of a respective transmission line segment, the optimized respective characteristic values being [substantially] non-incrementally and non-monotonically distributed across a range.

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are in the application.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 17, 18 and 25 are amended.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven M. Hoffberg

Reg. 33,511

MILDE, HOFFBERG & MACKLIN LLP Suite 460, 10 Bank Street White Plains, NY 10606 (914) 949-3100 December 23, 2002 I hereby corries that this correspondence is believed. State

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